Rail link between Bhadrachalam and Kovvur

90. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for a new rail line between Bhardrachalam and Kovvur has been completed; and

(b) if so, what is the decision of Government on the survey report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Construction of Bhadrachalam Road-Kovvur line could not be taken up as the project has been found to be unremunerative.

Unrest in the national school of drama

91. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great unrest in the National School of Drama, Delhi;

(b) whether the Director of the National School of Drama has recently resigned in disgust; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to set the matters right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) At present there is no unrest in the National school Drama, New Delhi. However in the months of August and early September, 1988 activities and the training programmes.

(b) The Ex-Director tendered his resignation on 29 9.88 Keeping in view the interest of the institution, the Society accepted his resignation w.e.f. 4 10.88

(c) Steps have been taken by the National School of Drama Society towards selection of new Director by constituting Sub-Committee to draw a panel of names.

Mishaps in Indian Airlines

92. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were a series of mishaps on Indian Airlines recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the schedules of Indian Airlines flights are upset very often; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the services of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There were three accidents to Indian Airlines aircraft during the year 1988.

(b) All the three accidents age presently under investigation.

(c) Due to operational exigencies, schedule revisions are carried out.

(d) Indian Airlines has revised its schedule and created stand by aircraft capacity/cushions at base stations to minimise disruption in schedule.

Purchase of A-320 Airbus by Indian Airlines

93. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has decided to purchase 12 Airbus A-320 aircraft from Airbus Industries of France;

(b) whether Indian Airlines has sought an extension of two months time for exercising its option to purchase the same; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) 15.3.1986, Indian Airlines had signned a purchase agreement with M|s. Airbus Industries France, for the purchase of 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft which are scheduled for delivery from April, 1989 onwards. Indian Airlines has also issued a Letter of intent to Airbus Industries, France, on the 8th of July 1988 for purchase of 12 additional Airbus A-320 aircraft. Proposal to convert the option into a firm order is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since adequate time is required for appraisal of the proposal by various agencies. it was found necessary to seek extension.

Second Bridge acress Hooghly in Calcutta

94 SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of construction of the second bridge across the Hooghly in Calcutta is tardy;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) by when the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Second Hooghly Bridge under construction at Calcutta falls on a State Road and is, therefore, primarily the responsibility of the Government of West Bengal. There have been slippages in progress of work on account of delay in fabrication & erection of the components of the main bridge. Efforts are, however, being made by the State Government to make them up. The Bridge is now likely to be completed by December, 1990.

Airlinking of District headquarters

95. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link the State capitals in the country with each district headquarters of respective States through Vayudoot; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the target date for its full implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's approach is on these lines.

(b) The details, including the target date for the full implementation of this programme, cannot be indicated at this stage, because the same will depend upon resources position, availibility of aircraft etc.

Rail accidents

96. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of railway accidents and derailments have taken place during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details of the major accident which took place during the last six month, number of people killed, injured; and

(c) what are the main reasons found for these accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Some accidents including derailments have taken